

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-20, leaves claims 7, 14 and 21 unchanged and adds new claims 22-42. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-42.

Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, and Applicants' Japanese Representative Hiroshi Kawano wish to thank Examiner Ngoc Dinh and Supervisory Patent Examiner Donald Sparks for the courtesy extended during the interview of August 5, 2004. 2004.

During the interview, the differences between the features of the present invention as recited in the claims as amended by a proposed amendment and the references of record, particularly Blumenau '254 and Blumenau '324 (U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2001/0020254 and 2003/0115324), were discussed. It was agreed during the interview that the claims as amended by the proposed amendment would overcome the references of record, particularly Blumenau '254 and Blumenau '324. Specifically it was also agreed that Blumenau '254 and Blumenau '324 "appear[s] not to teach the limitation of 'Groups of Host Computers,'" wherein security information is provided indicating relationships between each of the host groups and each of the storage regions accessible for each of the host groups as recited in the claims.

The present Amendment incorporates the proposed amendment presented during the interview with additional modifications to the claims to further clarify the features of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and the agreement reached during the interview that the claims overcome the references of record, Applicants submit that claims 1-42 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1-42 is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.39520CX2).

Respectfully submitted,

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